

DRAFT - Minutes – April 17, 2024
Arlington Disability Commission

Quorum reached – Meeting Called to order at 6:01 PM

Attendance (members present):

Kari Sasportas (KS) – Chair
Janice Cagan-Teuber (JC) - Secretary
Kerrie Fallon (KF)

Staff Present:

ADA Coordinator: Tim Ross (TR) tross@town.arlington.ma.us

Members of the public

Rebecca Gruber
Don Seltzer

Agenda:

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Ground rules
 - a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting]
3. Approve Draft March Meeting Minutes (5 min) – Deferred to May meeting
Approve Draft February Meeting Minutes – Deferred to May meeting
4. Fox Library (20 min)
5. Grant Update (10 min)
6. Working Group reports (20 min)
7. ADA Transition Plan Update (5 min)
8. Subcommittee reports (10 min)
 - a. DEI
 - b. DPW
 - c. CODA
9. Correspondences (5 min)
10. Guest Introductions
11. Public Comment (10 min)
12. Next meeting Wednesday May 15, 2024 at 6PM
13. Closing

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Minutes Approval

Approve Draft March Meeting Minutes – Deferred to May meeting

Approve Draft February Meeting Minutes – Deferred to May meeting

Fox Library Redesign – Anna Litten, Director of Libraries

- Discussion: which door will be the main entrance of the library; how the funds would be allocated; rationale for keeping the door on Mass Ave locked – safety for the children, due to that door being at the Children’s Room
- Library now addressing the issue of the step, looking for short-term retro fitting
- Letter of support was drafted by TR, edits from commissioners discussed and incorporated
- Motion to approve revised letter proposed by JC, seconded by KS; vote by roll call was unanimous

Grant Update

- TR shared that GC and TR met previously at the Rec Center; GC brought her bike
- Building/shed has been ordered
- Shed will have regular entrance (single door to the left, plus a garage door with a ramp
- Bikes can be rented by residents with staff opening the garage
- Entryway will be repaved (bids will go out this week with paving in May to be finished by June 30)
- 2 additional accessible parking spots will be added
- Questions:
 - Online reservation system with a 2-hour period for renting
 - Fee charged? Possibly a small fee
 - Standard waivers will be available
 - Recreation Department will take care of any fees

Working Groups - Reports

- **Disability Commission Newsletter:**
 - KS, GC, TR, Jillian Harvey, and Teresa Marzilli (TM), met to discuss; decision made to put newsletter on hold for now
 - KS working on best practices and guidelines for accessibility, and standards for vetting events for posting, including disclaimer that listing in newsletter does not signal endorsement by the Disability Commission and Town of Arlington
 - KS and TR to meet with TM to discuss accessibility guidelines for Town events, including upcoming Resource Fair
 - More support for town-supported events is needed – current priority for Commission

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- **ADA Transition**

- TR met with Christine Bongiorno and Chuck Newman
- Signs will be redone in the Town Hall including adding new way-finding signs
- 2 lifts will be added
- Clearer signage will be added, including Braille and color contrast for accessibility
- Bathrooms have been completed

- **Sub-Committee**

- DEI
 - TR is organizing town Resource Fair on 4/28; local organizations that provide assistance to residents will be on hand
- DPW
- CODA
 - TR attended; More people attended than last month
 - Language access & interpretation were discussed
 - Revere will hold a beach party later in the summer

- **Correspondence**

- Consent agenda, meaning summary of official correspondence received by the Commission and responses sent should be prepared for each monthly meeting and approved by vote of Commissioners
- Correspondence received past month
 - Contact from a resident regarding accessibility for Arlington Heights Spring Festival
 - Announcement of accessible dance event

- **Public Comment**

- Don Seltzer:
 - Sent 2 emails to the Commission regarding the state Architecture Board's decision regarding a variance request
 - Requested that his email correspondence to the Disability Commission email address be distributed to all Commissioners
 - Concerned about several new developments in Town with accessibility concerns, e.g. 1500 Mass Ave.

Announcements

- Next meeting is May 15 at 6:00pm

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by KS, seconded by KF, vote by roll call.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

Respectfully submitted

Janice L. Cagan-Teuber, Secretary